

INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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General

1. In September 1954, the Bulgarian Territorial Air Defense was being organized. The radar, observation and communications networks were considerably more established than in 1950. The radio-telephone connection direct to Budapest, which in turn was directly connected to Moscow, was established.

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PVO

2. The headquarters of the PVO (Protivovuzdushna Otbrana; Antiaircraft Defense) is in Sofia. It is located in four barracks in a wooded area southwest of the capital in the Lozenets area, about 2,000 meters from Duvnenisko Avenue (see Appendix A).
3. An antiaircraft battery, armed with unidentified guns, is located approximately 200 meters from the headquarters. PVO is directly subordinate to the Defense General Staff. The commander is Colonel Sinovski, and the Chief of Staff to the commanding officer is Colonel Vulkov.

Antiaircraft Units

4. The antiaircraft artillery regiments subordinate to the PVO are called Zenitni Artileriya Polkovi (Zenith Artillery Regiments), and are located as follows:
 - a. One regiment in Sofia;
 - b. One regiment in Plovdiv;
 - c. One regiment in Kazanluk;
 - d. One regiment in Pleven;

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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- e. One unit in Burgas;
- f. One unit in Dimitrovgrad; and
- g. One unit in Kyustendil.

5. The antiaircraft artillery regiment at Plovdiv is quartered in the barracks formerly occupied by the 9 Infantry Regiment. The strength of the regiment is unknown. Six or seven batteries are emplaced to protect the city. The regiment is armed with unidentified Soviet guns and machine guns. The regiment gives courses for antiaircraft artillery officer cadets. [redacted]

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[redacted] only antiaircraft artillery units are stationed in other localities.

6. The antiaircraft defense of Stalin is assigned to the Navy.
7. The airfields are defended by antiaircraft units of the Air Force, just as units of the Army have their own antiaircraft batteries. [redacted]

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8. The PVO has a searchlight service to seek out enemy aircraft at night.

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VNOS

9. Up to 1950, the service of the VNOS (Vŭzdushno Nablyudenie Opovestyavane i Svrŭska; Air Observation, Information and Communications) was performed by the Air Force itself, and was called VPS (Vŭzdushno Predupreditelna Sluzhba; Air Warning Service).
10. The Glaven Post (Main Post) of the VNOS, to which all information is fed from the radar, radio and visual spotting posts on the aircraft in flight over Bulgaria, is situated in the PVO headquarters as described in paragraph 2. The VNOS watch is limited to the Yugoslav, Greek and Turkish borders; the coast of the Black Sea is watched jointly with the Navy, which has its own headquarters in Stalin, and the VNOS in Burgas.
11. The Chief of the VNOS service in the PVO headquarters is Major Gerov of the Signal Engineers.
12. From 1950 to 1952, the VNOS service was performed by only one regiment stationed in Sofia. In the autumn of 1952, two other VNOS regiments were formed. There are now three VNOS Polk (Regiment), known as 1, 2, and 3, and located as follows:
- a. The 1 VNOS Regiment in Sofia;
 - b. The 2 or 3 VNOS Regiment in Pleven (?); the regiment stationed in Pleven was in Provadiya until October 1952, at which time it was transferred to an unspecified locality. [redacted] believes to be Pleven; and
 - c. The 2 or 3 VNOS Regiment in Stara Zagora.
13. The 1 VNOS Regiment in Sofia was organized during the summer of 1950. This regiment is assigned to guarding the Yugoslav frontier. In the autumn of 1952, the 2 and 3 VNOS regiments were formed from the cadres of 1 Regiment.

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14. The headquarters of 1 VNOS Regiment is located in an old barracks formerly occupied by a tank regiment, situated on the Zarigradsko Avenue. The tank regiment was transferred to the new barracks, located at kilometer 6 on the same highway which leads to Pancherevo. The commander is an unidentified major in the Signal Engineers. Up to 1951, the deputy commander was Captain Dechev. [redacted] Captain Panov, formerly company commander in the Mikhaylovgrad VNOS Rote. 25X1
15. The 1 VNOS Regiment [redacted] 25X1
 [redacted] The strength of the regiment was approximately 500 men. 25X1
 [redacted] the regiment should be composed of two battalions 25X1
 stationed on the Yugoslav frontier, respectively north and south of Sofia. In September 1952, the regiment was in a formative stage. To form the other two VNOS regiments, its T/O was reduced to one battalion with headquarters at the regimental headquarters and composed of three companies stationed as follows:
- a. VNOS Rote in Vratsa;
 - b. VNOS Rote in Radomir;
 - c. VNOS Rote in Kyustendil; and
 - d. VNOS Rote in Mikhaylovgrad.
- The companies are assigned a code name for radio communications. Usually they are indicated by the name of the locality where the headquarters is stationed. For example, the Mikhaylovgrad company is called the Mikhaylovgrad Rote.
16. Each VNOS Rote has the following:
- a. One VNOS radar post;
 - b. Three-five VNOS radio posts (depending on the area); and
 - c. An undetermined number of VNOS telephone posts.
17. The VNOS radar posts are directly subordinate to the company command and is headed by junior officers. VNOS radio posts make up one platoon of the company (Radiosvod) and are commanded by junior officers. Three VNOS telephone posts constitute one platoon (Telefonsvod) which is commanded by a noncommissioned officer.
18. The headquarters of the Mikhaylovgrad company is situated on a bluff, in the former hunting preserve west of the city. Approximately 15 men serve in the headquarters.
19. A VNOS radar post is located in the area of Boychinovtsi (N 43-28, E 23-19), 10 to 15 kilometers north of Mikhaylovgrad. The strength of the radar post is approximately 80 men.
20. [redacted] location of the following VNOS radio posts: 25X1
- a. One radio post located at company headquarters in Mikhaylovgrad;
 - b. One radio post located on top of the Kom hill in Berkovitsa Okoliya; and
 - c. One radio post at Nedelishte, 16 kilometers southwest of Dragoman.

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21. [] location of the following VNOS telephone posts: 25X1

- a. One post situated at company headquarters in Mikhaylovgrad; and
- b. One post on the bluffs near Kalotina (N 43-00, E 22-52), Godech Okoliya, the last Bulgarian village on the Sofia-Belgrade railroad.

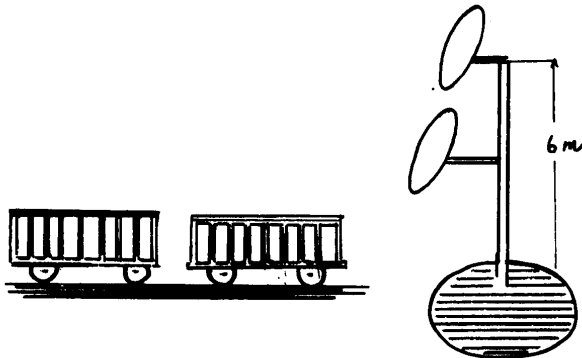
22. [] location of the following VNOS radar posts: 25X1

- a. One VNOS radar post is located in Kyustendil; and
- b. One VNOS radar post in Gorna Dzhumaya.

These two radar posts were subordinate to companies which were unknown to informant. The organic of the radar and telephone posts varies with the area to be guarded.

23. The radar post of 1 VNOS Polk had only three radar sets, supplied by the USSR in the spring of 1952. [] 25X1

[] They are truck-mounted on two trucks. Two parabolic antennas of undetermined diameter, which rotate on a single steel rod six meters high are attached to the ground by a steel plate. The operating radius is 200 kilometers. 25X1



VNOS Radio and Telephone Posts

- 24. Radio posts are equipped with Soviet radio sets of R.S.B. and German Berta type. Telephone posts are connected to the civil telephone net. Each post is manned by only four men. The regulations prescribe that radio and telephone observation posts must be situated on heights, in areas uncovered by tall growth and removed from routes of transportation.
- 25. The personnel and the sets are housed in a small half-buried barracks, blended with the surroundings by dirt and camouflage. The sentry who is outside to spot aircraft is connected to the post by telephone. A compass rose is traced on the ground to help the sentry indicate the course of the spotted aircraft. The rose is 50 centimeters in diameter.
- 26. The radio and telephone post are also equipped with binoculars, compasses, topographic and geographic maps with a numbered grid for purposes of plotting the position of the aircraft. Each radar, radio and telephone post is designated by a conventional name.

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Method of Communication

27. When a radar, radio or telephone post sights any aircraft, it immediately notifies the company headquarters which transmits the information received to the Glaven VNOS Post in Sofia. Communications are in code. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the signals are condensed in a 50-item table; each item refers to a 3-digit number (In training exercises the number is followed by number 45). The numbers are changed every two or three months. 25X1
28. The phonogram or radiogram is begun with the code indicator VZD meaning "Vuzdukh" (Air), followed by the call of the radio or telephone post. The break between the heading and the body of the message is signalled by the letter "R". This is followed by the position of the aircraft on the numbered grid, the estimated altitude in hundreds of meters (hectometers), the time of sighting, and the course of the aircraft.

VNOS Rote in Ruse

29. A VNOS Rote (company) was observed in Ruse in 1950, for direct connections with Bucharest and Moscow. Up to that time, this service was performed by a VNOS radio and telephone post.
30. The company headquarters is situated in the villa formerly belonging to a certain Veskov (fnu), a former petroleum merchant. The villa is situated on a hill called "Sarabac", approximately one kilometer east of the city, and about two kilometers from the right bank of the Danube and approximately 200 meters northward of the highway to Lipnik.
31. The villa is topped by a radio rod antenna, three meters high. It is equipped with one RSB Soviet radio set and a telephone switchboard. The telephone cables extend underneath the Danube River. The telephone cable terminal is a shed, 4 x 6 meters in size, on the shore of the Danube, near the sugar mill and the high-tension line booth for the line coming in from Rumania, which also has underwater cables. The telephone shed is not guarded.
32. [redacted] code names [redacted] 25X1
- a. Moscow - Roza;
 - b. Bucharest - Triboy;
 - c. Sofia - Venera;
 - d. Ruse - Malina (former code name was Bombe);
 - e. Burgas - Yagoda; and
 - f. Pleven - Luna.

These names are changed every two or three months.

Soviet Instructors

33. Soviet officers are detached to radar VNOS posts, as instructors only. In the winter of 1951-52, a Soviet general and colonel inspected the radar, radio and telephone posts stationed on the Yugoslav frontier, in the sector north of Sofia.

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Efficiency of VNOS

34. [redacted] the VNOS does not operate properly. The radio and telephone equipment is war surplus, and frequent breakdowns occur and operations in general are poor. 25X1
35. The radio and telephone observation posts are undermanned (four men for each telephone post), and the long watch makes the men lazy and apathetic. The telephone and telegraph operators fear that the radar posts will spot aircraft which they have failed to report because of their unwilling and intermittent service. The radar men in turn feared reports from radio and telephone posts, since they also worked spasmodically.
36. Article 1 of the service regulations prescribes that any foreign aircraft flying over Bulgaria must be reported immediately. The soldiers on duty put this article into practice only when their superiors came around, to let their "buddies" know that an inspection was in progress. They signalled a code reporting the sighting of a multi-engine biplane, which is no longer used by any Air Force.

Uniforms of the PVO and VNOS

37. The uniforms of the PVO are the same as that of the artillery. The insignia consists of two gun barrels crossed on black epaulets piped in blue. The VNOS uniform is also the same as the artillery. Their insignia consists of two crossed arrows on the epaulets which are black and piped in blue.

Radar

38. In the spring of 1952, an undetermined number of radar sets were supplied by the USSR. Some were delivered to the VNOS, while others were erected at airfields or assigned to unspecified units. [redacted] there is a radar set, type unknown, at the Bozhurishte Airport in Sofia. It is not part of the VNOS network. 25X1

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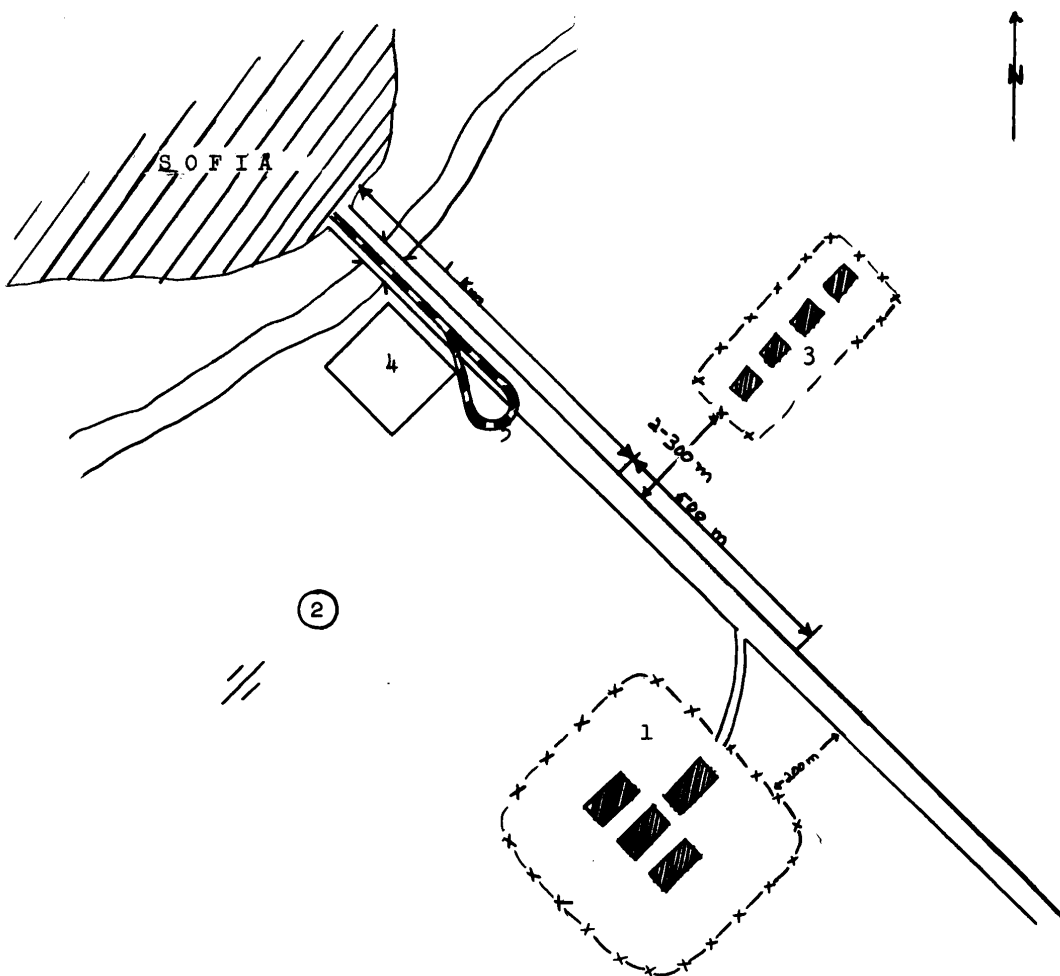
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APPENDIX A

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Military Targets in the Sofia Area



Legend:

1. Headquarters of PVO and GLAVEN POST of the VNOS
2. AA battery defending headquarters
3. Ammunition depot
4. Artillery school for career officer candidates
5. Streetcar terminal for Sofia-Lozenets district line.

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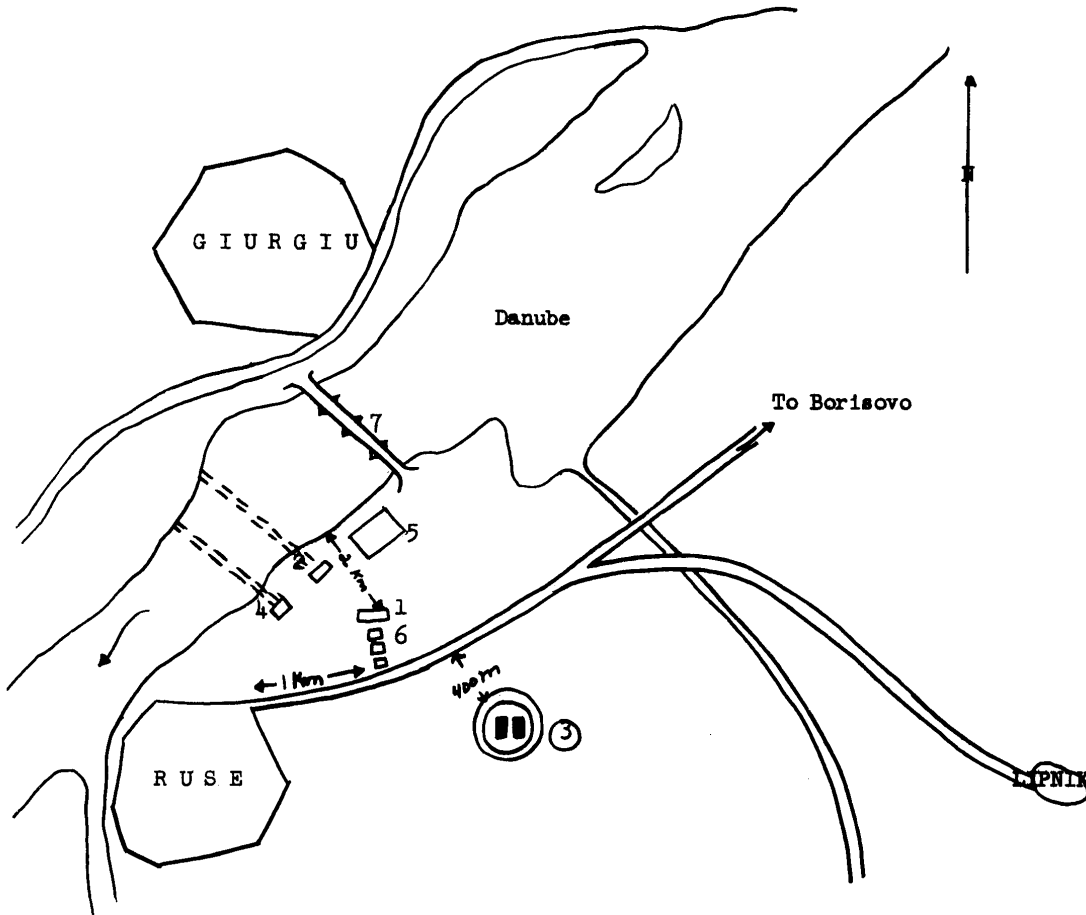
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APPENDIX B

Targets in the Eastern Area of RuseLegend:

1. Headquarters of a VNOS Rote (company) for communications with Bucharest & Moscow.
2. Terminal for telephone cables to Rumania
3. Old ammunition depot used by River Force
4. Electric booth for underwater cables of the high tension line from Bulgaria
5. Sugar mill
6. Private houses
7. Steel bridge on Danube River (two-decked)

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